

THE STORY

—OF—

John and Jonathan,



BY URTICA.

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THE STORY

- OF -

JOHN AND JONATHAN.

In the olden time there dwelt on a beautiful island called Albion a merchant by the name of Bull. John was his christian name, and the one by which he was best known. A plain spoken man was John Bull, powerful and strong as his namesake, very blunt in his manner, and in appearance stout and broad-shouldered; very much like the pictures you may see in Punch of a jolly English farmer, and which will give a very good idea of him generally. However, like everybody else, he had his good and bad points,—he was as stubborn as a mule, easily led but uncommon hard to drive, had a strong will of his own that wouldn't brook dictation, and had most of the failings common to obstinate people. He had inherited the island from his ancestors, who had held it for generations, and had likewise inherited from them a love for high-sounding names. He was very wealthy—far more so than any of the landed proprietors across the bit of water that divided them; and, as a matter of course, was a subject of envy to some of them, which, to say the least, was very ungrateful on their part, especially as he had lent every one of them money at various times. His tenantry were very numerous, some of whom leased his land for agricultural purposes, while others, being engaged in business like himself, had factories, stores and warehouses, and traded with neighboring merchants. John having a good eye to his own interests, generally derived a great revenue from these sources, consequently he was looked up to like a lord among the people who had great reverence for him. On his part he treated them with great kindness and generosity, built schools for their children, administered justice with impartiality, and kept a strong police force to see that order prevailed among them. But it was on holidays that John felt big, as on these days he usually reviewed his police. On these occasions would he rig

himself out in a blue coat with brass buttons, tie a fancy coloured garter round his knee, and stalk forth with all the dignity of an Indian chief—at once the admiration and envy of all beholders.

Now John in his youth had been the terror of all the neighbors on account of his great strength and courage, and they had often appealed to him to decide their quarrels, which thankless task he had sometimes undertaken to settle by the gentle persuasion of a strong arm backed by a powerful bulldog.

Attempts had been made at various times to get hold of his island, which was not very large, but always without success, for his dog was ever on the alert; and that sagacious animal always barked very loud whenever an enemy came near. Once, however, John came very near being despoiled by a Spanish merchant, who lived on the opposite shore, and who at the time was powerful and wealthy. He, thinking to take him unawares, sent a number of men in boats to dispossess him of his island,—and no doubt thought he had a sure thing of it; but fortunately for John the dog barked before they could get to shore, which awakened him, he being asleep at the time. So he jumped up, and hearing their "war song," soon collected a number of his tenantry, and set out in some of his small boats to meet them; when after some hard knocks he had the good fortune to swamp several of them, which frightened the others to such an extent that they made home again; but before they could get back most of them were lost in a storm.

Only once since that time had John been in any danger, though often threatened, and that was when another neighbour of his named "Bony," who had boned a great deal from other people, collected a number of men together for the purpose of making a raid on him; but seeing that his dog maintained his usual vigilance, thought better of it and staid at home.

Now a short distance across the water from John's Island lived a former protege of his, named Jonathau. Jonathan, who was a young man, had been educated in his household and had served in his employ, but upon attaining a good knowledge of business had leased certain estates on the mainland belonging to John, who owned a large amount of property in various parts. These estates though uncultivated were very valuable, and only required a person who understood their management to make them produce rich crops of sugar, cotton and tobacco; and Jonathan being a shrewd man soon turned them to account by bringing across some of John's tenantry to work them. In appearance Jonathan was tall and

slender, but tough as an oak sapling; in manner quaint and off-handed—hard to get the better of in a bargain, and keenly alive where his interests were at stake, but withal good-natured and generous. His favorite amusement was whittling a stick; and it had always been remarked that when indulging in this luxurious propensity, it was harder to deal with him then than at any other time. For a time everything went on well. John made a good thing by monopolizing the right to sell groceries and dry goods to Jonathan and his tenants; and no doubt would have continued to enjoy the large profits for a long time if it had not been for a circumstance which happened, and which was caused by John's avariciousness. Thinking the people would take it kindly, he sent over a boat load of tea, and compelled them to pay a greater price for the article than they would have had to pay other merchants, which caused great indignation among them. So being determined to resist the imposition, one dark night they disguised themselves, and having thus obtained possession of the boat, overset all the tea in the water and sent the boatman back to John with the news.

Now you may be sure that John was very indignant, not only at losing his tea, but at the conduct of Jonathan and his tenants in presuming to treat him with such contempt; so he threatened them with his dog and all sorts of things; and thinking that it would be an easy matter to make them repent of their rashness, he at once sent a bailiff with a squad of policemen to frighten them; but they weren't so easily frightened, for they got hold of a fierce bird called an eagle, which, every time John's men attempted to lay hold of any of them, would swoop down and peck at their eyes; whereupon after being wounded a good deal, and finding the place too hot for them, they were very glad to get back to the island without further damage.

After these men had departed the people had great rejoicings among themselves, and said unto each other, "Let us make merry." Accordingly they made up a great procession, and marched up and down headed by their fierce eagle, which they called "Twankay Doodle," in commemoration of the boat load of Twankay, and singing a song of which the following is a specimen:—

"Twankay Doodle came to town
And John's men he did scatter;
He struck his bailiff on the crown,
And so 'that's what's the matter.'

"Chorus.—Twankay Doodle, doodle do, Twankay was so handy;
Twankay Doodle, doodle do, Twankay Doodle, dandy.

After this event, which proved to John the indiscretion of being too high-handed by endeavoring to coerce people against their will, he and Jonathan became once more friendly, and he formally made over to him all his right and title to a part of the plantations and estates owned by him in that section of country, while to his daughter Canadia he gave the remainder.

And so it came to pass as years went by that Jonathan increased in wealth and prosperity to a wonderful degree. He had built houses and stores, and factories, and owned a number of boats, by means of which he sent the produce of his plantations to distant merchants, and brought back their goods in exchange, besides which he had established quite a settlement by inviting some of the tenants belonging to a sister of John's named Hibernia, not to mention a large acquisition of "lager" and "krout" consumers, to come and live with him. These people came over in large numbers and helped him on his plantations, so that he was in a fair way in every respect of rivalling his former patron, as well in the number of his tenants and workmen as in the wealth derived from his business. Yet these two neighbours though friendly to all appearance often eyed each other with jealousy across the strip of water that divided them, while the people and servants belonging to each abused one another to their hearts' content. John found fault with Jonathan for meddling in what didn't concern him, and boasting too much about what his eagle could do. While he on his part accused John of doing the same with regard to his dog, and disliked him for what he was pleased to term "his pride and arrogance." The latter complained of the conduct of the former in the following manner,—

"Jonathan, my Jo, said John,
When you were still quite young,
I shielded you from every harm,
As Father would a Son ;
But when you grew to man's estate,
You treated me with scorn ;
You upset all my tea, said John,—
And trod upon my corn."

To which Jonathan replied,—

"Right well do I remember
That all you say is true,
In everything that happened, John,
Between myself and you ;
But still you quite forget, John,
In all you say of me,
That filthy lucre was the cause
Of watering your tea."

But what more than all caused a secret dislike between them was the fact of Jonathan's coveting the portion of land comprising the



estates and plantations belonging to John's daughter Canadia, being advised thereto by some bad counsellors he had about him, and which had it not been for such advice would never have entered his brain.

Now Canadia was a fine, handsome girl, and in every respect a dutiful daughter, and gave promise of a future blooming and graceful womanhood. John was very proud of her, and had educated her well in the duties that would devolve upon her in the management of her estates, while she was fond of him,—consequently when she was considered old enough to manage them he placed her in possession of the estates above mentioned, which bordered on those of Jonathan, and from which they were separated by means of a

small creek. Here she made herself quite contented and happy, and conducted herself in such a manner towards her tenantry, by administering to their wants and requirements, as to gain their esteem and respect.

Ever since she had come to reside on her estates she had been an object of marked attention on the part of Jonathan, who having grown ambitious in consequence of his increasing wealth, like many other men under such circumstances, cast a longing eye on her fair domains to the end that he might obtain possession of them, while the more he gazed on them the more did his ambition soar, until he cursed himself for a fool that he had not when John and himself were at loggerheads claimed them along with the other estates. However, thinking of the old adage, "better late than never," he cast about him for some means to accomplish his purpose. One or two plans seemed feasible,—the first was to make it appear to John that he had a great interest in her welfare, and that her estates would thrive much better under his guidance and protection; the other was, failing this, to annoy John and herself in such a manner that for the sake of peace and quietness he would place her under his protection.

To carry out the first of these plans he immediately set to work, but in such a manner as not to arouse John's suspicions as to his real intentions, for he well knew that if that individual divined his purpose the whole force of his power would be exerted to thwart his object, so he cautiously set to work to sound Canadia on the subject; but finding that the idea of being under his protection found no favor in her eyes, relinquished that idea; while on the other hand it provoked Canadia very much for him to pretend to think she was not old enough or capable of managing her estates, and she often felt like crying with indignation at the thought of it, but having a pretty strong will of her own like most young ladies—for

"When they will, they will—you may depend on't—
And when they won't, they *won't*,—and there's an end on't."

she determined to show him that although she did manage her affairs by a different system of book-keeping to his,—being an old style that John had recommended as being the safest from his own experience,—she could do very well without his guidance; so to relieve her mind she composed the following verse:—

"Miss Canadia is my name,
My friends all call me so;
And if you want my real estate,
My answer's—not for Joe.

"Chorus—Oh! no, no, not for Jo; not for Jonathan, oh! dear no."

Foiled in this endeavor, and being a man of strong will, he bethought him of other means to gain his ends; so having hitherto been on friendly terms with Canadia, he resolved to hold no further communication with her, or to allow his people to trade with her's, as they had been in the habit of doing. Therefore having notified her to that effect, he determined rigidly to adhere to his resolution, the result of which was that a coolness sprung up between them; whereupon, to further show him she could do without his aid, she sent him the following lines—with her compliments:—

“Our friendship, 'twould seem, has all been a dream,
In the matter betwixt me and you;
Though you act like a foe, I'd have you to know
I can paddle *my own canoe*.

“For though you were rude, I did not conclude
As a friend you would prove untrue;
So I'll never depend again on a friend,
For I'll paddle *my own canoe*.

Now when Jonathan had done this thing, one or two of Canadia's tenants, for reasons best known to themselves, urged her to unite her estates to his, saying:—“We shall all be ruined; what shall we do for nutmegs of wood, or hams of basswood, unless we trade with these people.” Besides they told her that John no longer cared about her, or would protect her if Jonathan should take it into his head to seize her lands. For said they—“has he not already withdrawn the watchmen and police that he placed here to guard you from any evil that might happen to you.” Now this latter was a fact; and when she came to think over what had been said to her by these people, grave doubts and fears disturbed her as to John's reasons for so doing. So she remonstrated with him, and wished to know if he intended to leave her unprotected. But John answered her in his blunt way:—“Never you mind, Canadia, about what anybody may tell you as to my reasons for doing what I have done; but remember this, as I have before, so I shall again, defend you to the utmost with my dog, should cause require it—you have my word for it.” With this answer she was perfectly satisfied; and though one or two still grumbled, the rest of her people had full confidence in John's word and power to back it.

Jonathan still continued to agitate and perplex by unfriendly and unneighborly conduct, and determined to avail himself of certain events which had occurred a short while before, and which had caused bitter animosity to spring up between himself and John.

It would seem that when everything was looking prosperous for Jonathan,—when his plantations were yielding abundant crops of sugar, cotton and tobacco, and his heart was rendered joyous with the thought of his prosperity and the money that was flowing plentifully into the coffers of his saving bank,—a disturbance took place on some of his plantations that caused him a great deal of annoyance, and which arose in the following manner. He had leased certain plantations to some of his people, who compelled a number of slaves to work them; and by all accounts were not very kind in their treatment of these unfortunates. This arousing the indignation of some people who lived on another part of his estates, they frequently aided the poor slaves to escape, which, of course, was a constant source of bitter quarrels between them. It got so bad at last that Jonathan being complained to about it, decided against the slave-owners, which caused great indignation among them. So they determined to rebel against his authority on the first opportunity, which soon after happening, they openly defied him to interfere in their affairs, informing him at the same time that they intended to manage their own farms without his aid, and should no longer pay him rent for them. You may be sure he was indignant at such conduct on their part; and when soon after they elected a person named Jeff. as a sort of overseer, he determined to make them pay up for their insolence. To this end he sent a bailiff to read the Riot Act, and a number of men to take possession of their farms; but unfortunately for those he sent they were not strong enough, for the insurgents beat them back, and even killed some of them.

When Jonathan heard the news his wrath and indignation could not contain itself. He at once ordered a strong force of policemen, and appointed several special constables to arrest and bring back the ringleaders. In the meantime the rioters themselves had not been idle, for, knowing what Jonathan was about, they assembled together and barricaded their houses, and collected heaps of mud and stones to hurl at any force he might send against them. So when his men came the second time, they found it much harder work than they expected, although they were well provided with stones and pea shooters. The row waxed fierce for a long time, and blood was spilt on both sides; but at last Jonathan's superior force conquered. He set free all the slaves, and scrubbed them down with a brush called the "Fifteenth Amendment," which made them quite equal in every respect to *his other* tenants.

"For nothing's so good to make slaves independent,
As a scrub of the brush called the *Fifteenth Amendment*."

Now the rioters had called upon John for assistance; but he being friendly with Jonathan, did not wish to interfere, though urged to do so by a powerful friend named Louis; but at last being pressed hard by their condition, he went so far as to acknowledge their right to rebel. This didn't gain him any thanks from either party, but only succeeded in making Jonathan indignant. One of his plans for subduing the rioters was to starve them out, and for that purpose he kept a number of boats along the shore to intercept any provisions that might be sent them. John denied his right to do this, for according to certain understood police regulations, Jonathan had no right to block up his own shore. While things were in this state, John's ship-builder, at their request, built a boat for these rioters, which when finished they filled with men who laid wait for any of Jonathan's that might be loaded with cotton, or sugar, or tobacco; and whenever they came across any they scuttled them and destroyed their contents. In this way they did a great deal of damage, for which he accordingly held John responsible, and demanded compensation for the losses sustained by him. John, however, refused to hold himself responsible, and said that it wasn't his fault that the boat in question had done such damage, for said he: "You know very well, Jonathan, that if any of my people had gone to your boat-builder, to have a boat made, you would have allowed him to do it, even though you knew it was going to be used against me; and if I had made a claim against you for damages, you would have laughed at me for my pains; besides it seems to me very singular that after your talking so much about the new kind of boats you built a short while ago to act as guards on your shore, that so much injury should have been caused by the one in question. Now, if you like, I'll leave the matter to be decided by any two of our mutual friends who may have an interest in the question as well as ourselves." "Who do you mean," replied Jonathan. "Why, William and Louis, for instance—any one but Aleck, for he wouldn't give a just decision, being friendly with you, but hating me like poison for the thrashing that my dog gave his bear a short while ago." "No," said Jonathan, "I don't want any one to decide on what I consider to be a just claim, besides Louis is very sick at present, and couldn't attend to the matter—so down with the dust, John." "You've got such a peculiar way of speaking through your nose," said John, "that I'm not certain that I heard that last remark of yours aright." "Why, the meaning of it was that I want you to fork out the stamps." "Fork out the stamps," said John; "where did you pick

up all these queer expressions; you never learnt them from me. "I should think not," said Jonathan, "I guess you'r rather too slow for this individual;" and not being in a frame of mind to be argued with, he refused to withdraw his claim and went away whittling his stick. John at last, by the advice of his head manager—a person named William—consented to pay him a fatr sum in compensation for his losses, as he was always willing to acknowledge himself in the wrong when once convinced of the fact, besides William said,—“you had much better pay the claim, and then you can make one against him for those boats of yours that he destroyed when they were carrying provisions to the rioters, and which he had no right to touch.

But though he was willing, as we have shewn, to pay the claim, it wasn't Jonathan's intention to allow matters to be settled so easily. It wasn't the money so much that he wanted as to have a standing claim against John for purposes best known to himself, therefore, by the advice of his overseer, he determined to make further demands on him, which he knew would be rejected. Accordingly he sent in a bigger amount, on the plea that the first did not cover all the claims, but which John refused to pay.

His main object in all this was to worry him into bartering Canadia's estates, or to place her, as we said before, under his protection; and as she had recently complained of certain outrages committed by some of his people on her property, the object of which we will proceed to show, he thought that this circumstance would afford an additional proof of the need of that protection.

We made former mention of John having a sister named Hibernia. He had full charge of her estates, but, to tell the truth, hadn't treated her kindly. On the contrary, until his eyes were opened to the fact, he had been vory harsh with her, and refused to allow her to have much to say in her concerns. She lived on an island close to his own, from which it was separated by about 30 feet of water. She had often complained of his injustice towards her, and the thought of it rankled in her breast. Many of her tenants not liking his style of management, on an invitation from Jonathan, went across to live with him, where they were well treated and had given to them each a piece of land whereon to build a house. Great credit is due to Jonathan for the manner in which he treated all who came to live on his estates; and as his motto was to treat every one alike, he carried out the principle to its fullest extent.

Having become numerous, and wishing to revenge themselves on John, these people bethought them that to annoy Canadia would be a good way of retaliation. So they collected together on the shore of the creek, and pelted stones and rotten eggs at her people on the opposite side. Some of them likewise came across and threatened to turn her out of her plantations and destroy her crops. So she demanded of Jonathan his reason for allowing them to molest her; but he quietly answered that he had done his best to prevent them from crossing, but his constable and police hadn't been in time. Seeing that she could not depend upon him, therefore she collected her people, who were boiling with indignation at the outrage, and the marauders having crossed the creek, they fell upon them and captured some, while the rest turned tail and fled in disorder. Those that were taken would have paid the penalty of their rashness with their lives, such was the fury of her people, had it not been for Canadia herself, who said to them: "Let us temper justice with mercy, and show these people that while we have contempt for their cowardly outrage we can still afford to be generous." So after allowing a good number of them to return to their homes, the worst she imprisoned in a strong house with iron doors and windows. John hearing about this began to grumble, and his dog began to growl; so he said to Jonathan, who was taking things very coolly and whistling "Twankay Doodle,"—"How's this, Jonathan, why didn't you prevent these people of yours from molesting Canadia? you'r responsible for their actions." But you don't suppose," said Jonathan, "that it's my business to protect her shores, do you? "You don't get out of it that way," said John, indignant at the cool manner of the other. "You'r responsible for their actions; there was no end to the fuss you made about that 'boat,' for which you want me to pay such heavy damages, simply because it was built on my island; you know very well you ought to be ashamed of yourself to allow such things to happen, while at the same time you boast about your farms and plantations being managed by a better system than any of your neighbors; pretty management it must be, certainly, when you are unable to prevent a number of ruffians from sacking other people's property; if I am responsible for damage done by a boat, you are doubly liable for this." "But I did my best to prevent them," said Jonathan. "Indeed, if it hadn't been for my interference, Canadia would have suffered a great deal more than she did. I sent a special constable who arrested the ringleaders and imprisoned them, and made the rest skedaddle;" so you can't say I looked on without interfering."

"Skedaddle," said John in amazement,— "I never heard of such a word; what does it mean?" "It's one of my own invention," said Jonathan, "and means that they 'sloped,' or ran as you would express it. I take pride to myself that since I've been over here I've invented enough new words to fill a good-sized dictionary, and intend to publish them some day." "'Skedaddle' and 'slope,'" said John,— "I didn't know but what it meant that you hung them; however, if that's the case, thank you for your assistance. I was under the impression, from what Canadia told me, that it was her people that drove them back. You know it is my business to protect her." "I know it is," answered Jonathan, "but if she was under my protection these raids wouldn't take place, and I think the best thing you could do would be to place her under my care." "That's a matter of her own choosing entirely," said John. "If she thinks that your protection would be safer than mine, she is at perfect liberty to have it; but what she should want protection for—you being her only neighbor—is more than I can understand." "But," said Jonathan, ignoring these last words, "see what progress she and her people would make under the protecting wings of my eagle." "Certainly you have a right to think so, although the remark is not very flattering to me; but why do you desire it so much." "Oh! it makes no difference to me," replied Jonathan. "My only reason for mentioning the subject at all was that I thought you were going to leave her to protect herself, having withdrawn your police force from her estates." "Not at all," said John. "My reasons for removing the police force you speak about were that I had perfect confidence in your friendliness, Jonathan, to Canadia and myself, otherwise I should not have done so; and I begin now to perceive that she was right when she remonstrated with me for so doing at the time." "But you don't mean to tell me," replied Jonathan, "that your dog, being with you on the island, is as safe a protection for her in time of danger, as my eagle. You don't mean to tell me that, John." "What I do mean to tell you, Jonathan, is that I am not in the habit of boasting much about my dog, though if I was it might be pardonable considering the many times he has faithfully guarded my shores, not to speak of the number of thrashings he has given to so many prowling animals abroad. Canadia, herself, has full trust in his power to defend her should she require him.

This conversation having settled the matter, affairs went on in their usual order for some time, until another event happened which again roused Jonathan's anger.

It must be remembered that when his people and Canadia's were on friendly terms with each other, and traded among themselves in a neighborly way, her fish ponds were used to a considerable extent by his tenants, who supplied themselves with nice fresh fish therefrom, and were allowed to fish as much as they liked without interruption. But when he forbid his people to trade with her's, thinking by that means to force her into a union with him, she naturally resented the action by preventing any one from his side to fish as formerly. However, by John's advice and hoping that Jonathan would think better of his purpose, she had still allowed them do so; but at last seeing that such a favor on her part produced no corresponding effect on his, she determined at once to assert her dignity by withdrawing her consent. So having summoned her gamekeeper, whose name was Peter, she told him to keep a strict watch on the ponds, and if he found any of Jonathan's people fishing thereon to seize them and their fishing rods, and have them brought before her. Peter having received his orders caused a notice to that effect to be sent to Jonathan, and proceeded to carry out his plans. To this end he hid himself behind some bushes, and patiently kept watch. He had not long to wait however, for soon along came the poachers, who were immediately pounced upon by him, and brought before Canadia, who took away their boats and fishing rods and tackle and sold them.

This proceeding on her part made Jonathan furious, and as he held John responsible for her conduct he applied to him for redress, so he said: "Look here friend John, you must either allow me to manage Canadia's affairs for her, or take the consequences, as I don't intend any longer to have my people abused and insulted in such a manner." "How do you make that out?" said John quite calmly. "Why, has'nt that gamekeeper of her's seized fishing boats and tackle belonging to my tenants, and didn't she sell them?" "Who owned the fish ponds?" said John. "Who owned the fish ponds? Who owned the fish ponds?—Why—Why I have as much right to them as she has; her right only extends a short distance from the shore, and my people tell me that when seized they were fishing outside that limit." So Peter was called to give his evidence and he said: "When I was hiding behind the bushes on the look-out for poachers, I waited until I saw the people in question draw in close to shore, when I pounced upon them, and took possession of their boats and fishing rods, as I had been directed to do." "I think that evidence ought to settle the question," said John, "Canadia has acted perfectly right in what she has done, and had the



case been reversed you would have done the same. She allowed your people to fish for a long time, even after you had forbidden hers to sell any on your side; she allowed your boats to pass down the creek, and gave them the right to use the ditches on her side, which had cost so much time and labor to dig out, although when she wanted to send one of her boats through a small one belonging to you, you ungraciously refused it." "I had good reasons for doing so," replied Jonathan, "when she wanted me to allow that boat to pass through the ditch you speak of, it was loaded with stones and pea shooters, which you are well aware, according to a rule agreed upon between us, I had a right to refuse, but

It seems to me quite plain, John,
You think yourself 'old pie,'
You don't come over me, John,
So 'how is that for high?'"

I suppose that's some more of the new dictionary," said John. "I reckon so; but that a'int a circumstance to some of my lofty flights, "you bet;" but as I came here to talk business, I'll finish what I had to say, which is this, John:—"I don't intend to stand any more nonsense; I have been outrageously treated, and if the like happens again I shall unchain my eagle and cast him loose to prey upon that dog of yours." That's my ultimatum." After saying which he went to take counsel with his head overseer, a man named Ulysses S. G., who after hearing what he had to say in the matter, replied that he had never heard anything to equal it for impertinence. "The idea of Canadia preventing your people from fishing when and where they please; the thing is ridiculous; seize on her estates at once, and see how she and John will like that settlement for damages." "I think I will," said Jonathan, "but I don't like to push matters too far, because." "Because what—because you are too modest, Jonathan? that's what's the matter with you. You allow yourself to be imposed on. You know that Canadia's estates should have been yours by right long ago. Don't you remember the time you said you would never allow any one but yourself to own any land along this shore." "Yes, but then I never had an actual right to Canadia's portion, for according to an agreement between John and myself, the lands she occupies were reserved to him." "Don't talk to me about agreements. Agreements, indeed. I'd like to know who keep agreements now-a-days. Doesn't your friend Aleck, who owns the bear, intend to break the agreement he made to keep it from eating up that turkey, that John and the others made such a fuss about. Then why should you keep yours. You don't under-



stand John. I've watched him a long time, and have come to the conclusion that nothing but bullying will have any effect on him. Bully him if you want to get your rights—that's the secret. However, leave the matter to me and I'll find a way to settle it."

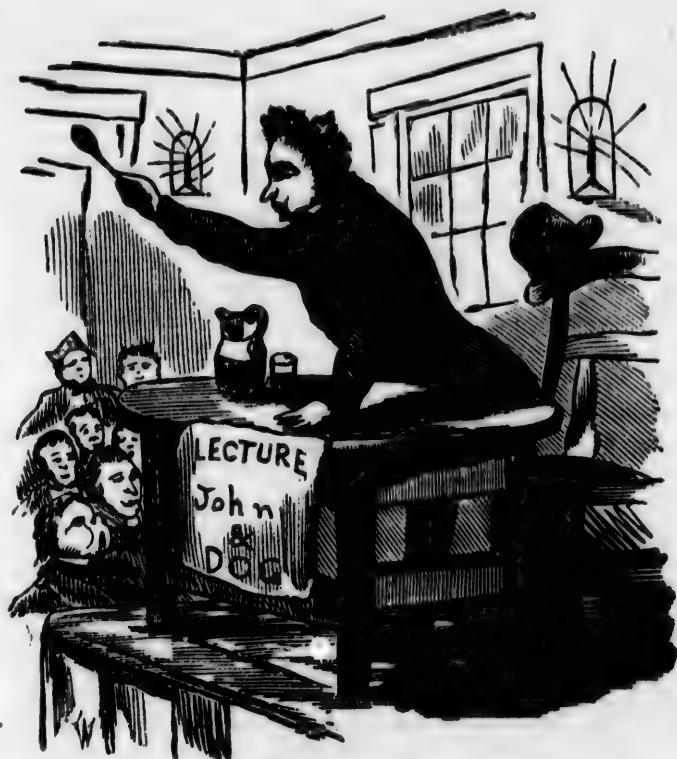
This was the kind of advice Jonathan had instilled into him to inflame his passions. Well disposed and peaceable if left alone, he would have been quite willing to have lived on friendly terms with Canada. But this was not the purpose either of Ulysses, or a still

worse adviser of his named Ben Bolt. Ulysses was not the right stamp of man for the position of overseer,—didn't know one crop from another, or for that matter, anything whatever about farming, which disgusted the agricultural portion of the people. He wasn't a bad man by any means, but one of those who, like many more under similar circumstances, are not "the right men in the right place." He was always getting in hot water with some of the people, who were very hard indeed to please; and unfortunately for him he couldn't defend himself by abusing them in return, being a man of few words, and remarkable in that respect—a high-flown style of oratory being in those days considered a great acquisition. Previous to being made overseer he had been Jonathan's "Chief of Police," and in that capacity had rendered him great service, and also made himself extremely popular among the tenantry, who at that time found words unable to express their sense of admiration, making the initials of his name to read "Ulysses So Great," and by their advice besought Jonathan to make him overseer. To give him his due he had deserved all this, having shown great ability and judgment in his former capacity, and being well up to the work should never have left it. He had subdued the rioters at the time of the great row, and had displayed great skill in his manner of doing so, therefore Jonathan looked to him for counsel, judging that from his great experience he would advise him aright. But he hadn't been a good adviser by any means. It was he who had urged him to claim Canadia's estates; and when she had begged Jonathan to allow her people to trade with his as formerly, he advised him to refuse it.

Ben Bolt was a different man to Ulysses. While the latter was worthy in many respects, the former was a *spooney* sort of individual and fit for little. Abuse of John and all belonging to him was his peculiar forte. He was a constable of Jonathan's, but unable to follow his profession in consequence of being afflicted with a disease called "kleptomania,"—which raged at that period to a great extent, and the principal feature of which was a nervous grasp of the fingers when in the vicinity of plate. Ben in appearance was childlike and bland, and had many of the little characteristics so peculiar to the "heathen Chinese," and

"For ways that were dark,
And for tricks that were vain,
This Benjamin Bolt was peculiar—
Which the same I am free to proclaim."

He had often advised Jonathan to take forcible possession of Canadia's estates; and when the events relating to the seizure of his



BEN BOLT.

people for poaching had occurred, his rage and abuse of her knew no bounds; and if matters had been left to his management he would have constituted himself judge and jury in the case.

Ulysses, therefore, after leaving Jonathan, sought out Ben, and they set their heads together for the purpose of devising a plan to settle matters. "I think," said Ben, "We had better advise Jonathan to demand all the farms and estates possessed by John in various parts, including Canada's, as part compensation for all claims against him." "Not so fast," said Ulysses,— "you'd make a nice mess of the whole affair." "How do you mean? Hasn't Jonathan got claims against him for the damage done by 'that boat,' and also for the fishing rods and things that were seized by Canada, which taken altogether would amount to more than the whole of them." "Perhaps it would in your estimation," said Ulysses, "but let me tell you that John won't be found in a hurry to part with any of them, least of all Canada's. If we could get her estates I should like it very much, for I've been over them and

know what they are worth. You see our plantations are getting filled up while the best of her's are still uncultivated, besides her ditches on the creek would be of great service to us in carrying the produce from our western estates." "Why," said Ben, "if the place is as valuable as you say it is, I'll ask Jonathan to make me overseer when he gets it." "I don't think you'd suit at all, my dear fellow. You see the people are not accustomed to your ways, and that unfortunate affliction of yours would make it very unpleasant, you know." "Oh! I wouldn't mind that in the least. Why, when I was down there," said Ben, pointing south,—“you remember—you know where I mean—the place where I first took the disease—the people didn't mind it after a while. Why they composed the following verses to my memory :—

“ When Ben came down to our town
To see what he could get,
He took a fancy to our plate,
He's got that fancy yet.

“ For while the people trusted him,
He helped himself at will,
By *bolting* off with all their plate,
He's got it with him still.”

“ It wasn't that we cared so much
About the loss of pelf;
But being fooled in such a way—
'You know how 'tis yourself.'

“ And some of us still mourn and fret
About the matter yet,—
When we lay hold of Benjamin,
We'll 'cook his goose'—'you bet.'”

“What do you think of that?” “I think the style rather low,” said Ulysses. “What do you mean my style was?” “Oh no! I think that was rather high. I meant the verses. However that's not the question. Our business is to propose a good plan to Jonathan to settle this affair; and I've hit upon a capital idea.” “Tell us what it is,” said Ben. “Why you know, when I made that great speech of mine, about what we'd do if we didn't have satisfaction for the outrages inflicted on us, Canadia proposed to John that two or three of his most trusted tenants should be chosen by him, and a like number by Jonathan to settle that fish pond business.” “I know it,” said Ben, “but what of that?” “Well I shall advise Jonathan to agree to it on one condition, that is, that all disputed questions shall be brought before them for settlement, and as we have always got the best of the bargain when any matters between us have been settled in this manner, I think it will go hard with us if we can't do the same again.” “But why not send some one, one

of Jonathan's travelling agents for instance, to demand an instant settlement. Why if I was sent over I'd have the question put before John in black and white." "We've tried that before, and it won't answer." "Why, do you mean to say he refuses to give any satisfaction?" "No, not exactly that, he offered to settle that matter of 'the boat,' but wouldn't agree to all of Jonathan's demands, besides, when we sent over an agent to have our full claims established, John fed him up and flattered him to such an extent, that not being accustomed to the style in which he was treated, he would have agreed to everything that was proposed to him, if Jonathan hadn't sent him word to come back immediately. So that plan won't do; while the other in my opinion is just the thing, for there are no people so easy to get over as John's, if you only know how to treat them; let them think they know everything and you have them. Do you see that plantation over there that borders on Canadia's?" "I do," said Ben. "Well there's a laughable story in connection with that piece of ground which will prove how easy it is to 'euchre' any of John's people. It's not everybody that knows it, but that belongs to John by right, and when he sent over a surveyor named Ash, to divide these grounds from Canadia's, Jonathan also sent one called Dan. One day while running the lines, a dispute arose about the land in question; so after a while, Dan, knowing he was in the wrong, asked the other if he could play a new game at cards called 'euchre.' Ash, thinking it beneath him to display ignorance of anything pretended he knew all about it, upon which Dan proposed a game to settle the matter, which rather astonished Ash, who gazed steadily at Dan through a piece of glass to see if he was joking, but finding he was in earnest, and not liking to back out, he agreed to the proposal. Now you know what our people are at euchre." "I rather think I do," said Ben, "why you remember when I was down in New ——" "Don't interrupt me," said Ulysses; "let me finish the story. So they sat down on the grass to play while Dan dealt the cards.

"Which his name it was Dan was Jonathan's man,
He dealt out the other a hand,
Which the other he thought was kind on his part,
As the game he did not understand."

So you may be sure the other hadn't much chance with Dan, who ran out the game before Ash had scored a point, much to his disgust.

That's how John got "euchred" out of that plantation, which circumstance caused the term ever afterwards to be applied to any one who has been imposed upon.

"That's just my style," said Ben. "But if you want my opinion as to what demands should be made on John for his outrageous conduct, here they are:—I would advise that Jonathan insist upon an immediate settlement on the following terms, viz.: That John make over to him all his right and title to certain small farms and estates owned by him in various parts, such as those on the other side there, which he calls his eastern plantations, together with the Emerald Isle and half a dozen others not worth mentioning, as part compensation for the damage committed by 'that boat,' while as an offset to the fish pond claims I think the least he could ask would be to have possession of Canadia's estates. Nothing less should be accepted by Jonathan. Them's my sentiments." "You don't know what you'r talking about," said Ulysses. "Why John would as soon part with his island as any of them." "Well, I don't know but what he might have to part with that yet if he doesn't behave himself. I know this much, Jonathan has only got to say the word to a few such men as myself, and we wouldn't leave him an inch of ground to stand on." "If buncombe would do it, I know of no one better qualified for the undertaking than yourself," said Ulysses; "and it seems to me that if a prize belt was given for a champion abuser, instead of bruiser, two to one on you would be a safe bet." Saying which he left Ben rehearsing a speech on John and his dog.

Now it was the custom of Jonathan's overseer to write a letter once a year to his tenants, giving them an idea of the amount of rent that the estates had brought in, and how much goods his people had traded away. He would also tell them whether their neighbours had more corn or cotton, or tobacco, or more boats than Jonathan had, and all about how happy his tenants ought to be to have the eagle's wings to overshadow them, and reviewed the principal events that had occurred between them and their neighbours during the past year. And so it happened, that Ulysses being told that Peter, Canadia's gamekeeper, had seized some of the boats and fishing rods and lines, belonging to Jonathan's people, and urged by Ben Bolt, he wrote in this wise: "that Canadia had acted in a very unfriendly manner in not letting them fish in her ponds, or go through her creeks and ditches with her boats, and that if she acted so again he would prevent John from sending her any goods through his plantations, for you know," said he, "that when her miserable creeks are *friz up*, the dresses and things that John sends her go through these estates, but I'll be goldarned if she mayn't go naked all the winter before she shall get her dresses and goods through these farms if she serves me so again."

Now when Canadia had reviewed a copy of the letter, the color mounted on her cheek with indignation. "What," she said, "adding insult to injury; charging me with unfriendliness when year after year I have let his people fish in my ponds, and his boats to have free use of my creeks and ditches to take his goods to and from his farms. What possesses the man. Does he know that he stands convicted of false statements." Then calling her head manager, she said,—“This matter I confide to your care. You must show my worthy father, John, and my neighbor Jonathan and his people, that their overseer has either wantonly or in ignorance made mis-statements concerning me. Assemble the people and we will take the matter into immediate consideration.” Whereupon they assembled in haste, and Canadia addressing them said,—“You know how year after year I have sought to live peaceably with all my neighbours, and have ever offered them the right hand of fellowship. You are aware, also, how often I have been molested by the baser sort of Jonathan’s tenantry, without his overseer or bailiff: seeking to prevent them. You know how these men, called Finnogans, came over the creek and robbed some of my tenants of their sheep and poultry; and you know that when they resisted them and drove them back again, it was not without some of my people being killed and lamed by the big stones that were thrown at them; and also on a recent occasion, when these same men made another attempt and were again driven back—that Jonathan’s overseer, under a show of friendship, arrested some of them, but soon let them go again. Thus much for friendship. Furthermore, you are aware that some time since Jonathan, John and myself made an agreement that our people might buy and sell their goods to each other, and that our fish ponds should be in common. Well, although I can’t but think that Jonathan’s people were the gainers by the arrangement, yet I did not murmur; and when after a time the agreement was broken—by whom was it broken? Why, by himself and people. You are aware that even after that, at the wish of my father John, I allowed his people to fish in my ponds. Seeing, however, that all my friendship was of no avail, I caused my head manager to write to Jonathan’s overseer to tell him I would no longer allow their boats to fish, and I instructed my gamekeeper, Peter, to seize any that after this notice should attempt to fish. He obeyed my instructions; and because he did so, I am charged with unfriendliness. This cannot go on any longer, and I shall therefore appoint certain among you to consult as to the best means to bring these matters to a close.”

"Oh many a time when I'm sad at heart,
 And havn't a word to say,
 I've thought of this conduct on Jonathan's part,
 And his obstinate, selfish way.
 For Ulysses has said in his buncome speech
 That Canadia's saucy and bold,
 But I'd have him to know, 'come weal, come woe,'
 I'll neither be bought nor sold."

Chorus.—"So I tell him he needn't come wooing to me,
 For my heart's with John, far over the sea,
 So I tell him he needn't come wooing to me,
 For my heart, my heart is over the sea."

Whereupon, after grave deliberation among those appointed, it was resolved that Canadia should lay all the facts of the case before John, and request him to send one or two of his chief men to Jonathan, to lay before him the grievances of which she complained, and to endeavour to come to some mutual understanding on the subjects between them. Now when John received Canadia's letter he gave it careful consideration, and seeing that she had acted with great discretion, and in the matter of the fishing boats had been guided by his advice, he immediately consented to do what she desired.

And so it came to pass that John having consulted his head man William, sent over two or three of his most trusted tenants to settle all disputes between himself and Jonathan, and knowing that Canadia's head manager, having had charge of her estates for a long time, had done much by his ability to place them in the thriving and prosperous condition for which they were remarkable, and had besides a full knowledge of all her affairs, and was well acquainted with all the circumstances of the disputes between herself and Jonathan, he appointed him along with the others, to represent her. These men therefore, together with a like number of Jonathan's wisest tenants, appointed by him to meet them, assembled in his principal place of business, and as the right to fish in certain parts of Canadia's fish ponds was the first question requiring settlement, her head manager arose and said, that as it devolved on him as Canadia's representative, to lay before them certain facts in regard to the question, and of which in his capacity he had had great opportunities of judging, and trusting to common sense and liberality of spirit to adjust them, he would be brief in his remarks. As to the origin of Jonathan's right to fish in Canadia's ponds, so long as his estates constituted a part of John's property his people had the right of enjoyment of them as well as Canadia's, but when he became separated from John, he had no right to claim otherwise than by agreement, the exercises of privileges belonging to her.

For if it was contended on the part of Jonathan that in consequence of his estates having once belonged to John, he was entitled

to all the rights and privileges of his and Canadia's people, so might John and she in like manner claim the same rights in regard to the privileges enjoyed by Jonathan and his people—which would be absurd. Therefore, he presumed that the agreement made in the year ten thousand eight hundred and eighteen between John and Jonathan would be the proper basis on which to regulate the settlement of this important question.

Now this agreement stated that the people of Jonathan should have forever, in common with those of John (and, of course, Canadia's also), the liberty to take fish of every kind on certain parts of her shores and ponds; and that Jonathan's people should also have the liberty forever to dry their fish on the shore of any of the inlets or creeks of the said ponds; but so soon as the same or any portion thereof should be settled by John's people, it should not be lawful for Jonathan's people to fish on such portions so settled without previous agreement for such purpose with the people living on the shores; and Jonathan hereby renounces forever any liberty heretofore enjoyed or claimed by his people to take or dry fish on or within three yards of any of the creeks or inlets of Canadia's ponds. Provided, however, that his people should be admitted to enter such creeks or inlets for the purpose of shelter from storms, or repairing their boats, or obtaining wood to make a fire or fresh water to take a drink.

"This then was the agreement which conveyed to Jonathan and his people the right of catching and drying fish." After which, he proceeded to show in what manner this agreement had been violated, and entered minutely into the details of the question, and concluded by stating "that with regard to the general question of Jonathan's right of fishing, it would be conceded by all that if he had a right to forbid her people from participating in the privileges enjoyed by his own, she on her part had an equal right to prevent his from fishing within certain limits in her ponds, and as he had been the first to abrogate a recent agreement between them which had given the people of each certain privileges in common, he could not complain if Canadia had exercised her just rights in the premises by confiscating the boats and fishing rods belonging to his people, for fishing in certain parts of the ponds belonging to herself." He further stated "that when the free right to trade had existed between them Canadia had always endeavoured on her part to foster the spirit of friendship prevailing at that time, but if she had since shewn any resentment, it was on account of the threatening attitude of himself and people towards her, and as an evidence that she had no ill feeling towards him or them, he would point to the fact that

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she still allowed his boats the use of her ditches and creeks in common with her own, while he refused to extend the same courtesy to her. Such being the chief facts in regard to the case the question stood thus: Should we or should we not resume our former agreement? This he concluded to be the main question at issue between them, which he would leave to their spirit of justice and liberality to decide.

After Canadia's head manager had finished, the chief of John's party arose, and having related all the facts in regard to the damage done by 'the boat,' and argued on the chief points in connection therewith, which were handled by him with great ability, concluded by stating that—"Having thus far placed the question before them in all its bearings, and given them his views as to the best means of settlement, he would briefly review the circumstances and touch lightly on the chief points of the case. As he had shown, the boat in question had been built on John's island without his knowledge of the purpose for which it was intended, and ostensibly for the purpose of trading; but when informed of its object he had taken immediate steps to detain it, but unfortunately too late. Whereupon, having escaped, it afterwards took on board a number of stones and pea-shooters, by means of which it caused serious damage to Jonathan's commerce, by destroying a large number of his boats laden with goods; in consequence of which damage, John was held responsible by him for having allowed the said boat to leave his shore. These in few words were the facts of the case, which resolved themselves into the following question, viz:—Had John violated the agreement made between the neighbors? If he had, then also had Jonathan, inasmuch as according to the same rules and regulations, he had no right to block up his own shore or destroy the boats and property belonging to John's people for trading with the rioters; besides, according to the same rules, he was responsible for allowing his people to cross over into Canadia's plantations for the avowed purpose of stealing her sheep and poultry." "But," said one of Jonathan's people, "John himself acknowledged that the raids committed on Canadia's estates had been prevented by Jonathan, and at the same time thanked him for having done so—how then do you make out that he is responsible?" "John certainly did thank him, not for preventing the damage, but for *attempting* to prevent it; but it seems to me that it's only common sense to suppose that if John is to be held responsible for not having been in time to seize the boat that did such damage to Jonathan, in the same degree is he responsible to John for not having prevented the damage to Canadia's property, and which her head manager here can testify to, he

having by her instructions paid several pieces of brass (this was the brazen age,) to her tenants as indemnity for their losses.

After he had concluded, Jonathan's men (who were among his cleverest tenants,) in turn argued both questions with great ability, showing that in regard to the fish ponds Jonathan did not claim a right to fish within the three yard limit, but there was a dispute as to what that limit meant,—whether it should follow the windings of the inlets and creeks of the ponds, or be drawn from a line between two rocky points called headlands; and as some concessions must be made by each party, if there was an earnest desire to settle the matters between them, they were glad to find that John's party were willing to waive the claim to such, provided some concession was also made on the part of Jonathan. They were of opinion that if the right to fish in Canadia's ponds were granted to Jonathan's people, partly as an offset against the 'boat claims,' all matters between them might be easily settled."

To this, however, Canadia's head manager objected, as he said: "She had nothing whatever to do with the boat, and therefore was not in any way to be identified with it; and as it was altogether a matter for settlement between John and Jonathan, he did not consider that her fish ponds should be mentioned in connection with it." To which the rest of John's party agreed, saying that—"John would rather pay the full claim than allow Canadia in any way to bear a share of the responsibility.

Having agreed therefore that it would improve matters between them to have these questions settled in a friendly manner, they concluded their labors, the result of which will be given hereafter. Everything having been thus brought to a close, nothing remained but for John and Jonathan to agree to the terms proposed by their advisers, which they did amid great rejoicings.

Ben, who had been anxiously watching to see how the affair would terminate, had made so sure of a different conclusion, that on hearing the news his nervous system received a shock that caused his old malady to assume a worse form in the shape of a virulent disease called "Anglophobia," which was very catching, the symptoms being the same as in "Hydrophobia" of the present day, and which it much resembled, so that he was obliged to be confined in a place very like one of our Lunatic Asylums, to prevent him from doing mischief. Ulysses therefore hearing that this disease was caused by Ben's having opposed the result of the decision, and fearing that the same symptoms might be developed in him at once advised Jonathan to agree to it. Thus a lasting friendship between all concerned was from that time forth established, and the people of each, subduing old animosities, encouraged everything that had a tendency to make them better acquainted with one another.

"Mid war's alarms, and calls to arms,
Firm to each other stood
These people of a kindred blood,
As friends and neighbours should."

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